

February 2, 1976

With no further statements from me, please support the amendment to return to strike the enacting clause.

PRESIDENT: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I would rise to oppose the motion to kill the bill. I think Senator Kelly did not tell you exactly what all the story is. This is not a fight over good education for children. This is a fight over a tax base. Again I would reiterate to you, had I had anything to do about it I would not have created class six schools. We have a class six school out there now, however....

PRESIDENT: All Senators are to remain in their chairs. We're still on Final Reading.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: If we pass....

PRESIDENT: Senator Mills.

SENATOR MILLS: Mr. President, I'd like to ask you to clarify again what you just said awhile ago concerning when Senator Kennedy spoke to his amendment. I don't think Senator Lewis was in the room at that time.

PRESIDENT: Your point is well taken. The Chair is in a dilemma because of the fact that debate is not allowed on Final Reading. There is a motion to return, so the question comes whether there is debate on the motion to return or whether debate occurs on the motion itself when it is returned. The Chair recognizes that Senator Kelly asked to explain what his motion does once it gets back. The Chair recognizes the need of those who oppose it to state their position. I'd like to think that this matter has been debated very fully. Since we are on Final Reading the membership should exercise as much restraint as possible.

Senator Mills, the answer is, I don't think that I can eliminate debate on a motion to return. I'd like to but there's no way I can. I just ask for your cooperation. Is that satisfactory, Senator Mills? Senator Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, with those thoughts of the Chair in mind, it was merely my intention to rise and explain that we're talking about a school matter. To refresh the membership, to let them know that all we're saying now is that those schools that exist certainly ought to be in a position to do so. There's some fine schools out there. In terms of what Senator Kelly is talking about, I can appreciate Senator Kelly's situation. He's simply involved in what the best tax base for his community is. As I've stated on this floor before, I appreciate his position. I wish there had been those that had tried to solve mine before. I have three or four school districts in my town.

This is a school issue and not a property tax issue. If we do not pass 383 we're going to emasculate five or six schools that we have already established, schools that are in economic sized units now which would frustrate many of the goals, I think, that we've had for education.